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# Darlaston Urban District Council



## REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1959

J. K. HEAGNEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

F. G. ASHCROFT, M.A.P.H.I.,  
*Chief Public Health Inspector.*



# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

**for the year 1959.**

*Public Health Department.  
Town Hall,  
Darlaston.  
James Bridge 2391*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1959.

Statistically the year has not shown any marked variations. The estimated mid-year population at 22,270 shows an increase of 60 on the previous year. The number of live births at 301, was a decrease of 33 on 1958. There were 4 deaths of infants in the first year of life, 3 of these being in the first four weeks. This shows a reduction of 3 on the previous year, and compares favourably with the national figures. The infant mortality rate is an important index to the standard of the services in a given community. The number of infectious diseases notified was 316, in addition 20 cases of food poisoning were notified. The regular recurrence of measles, in all 271 cases, accounted for the increase compared to the previous year. The 20 cases of food poisoning occurred in two outbreaks, this despite Food Hygiene Regulations which lay down stringent conditions for the handling of foodstuffs and the very strenuous efforts of the Public Health Inspectors to persuade food handlers to adopt higher standards. These outbreaks draw particular attention to the importance of the rapid cooling of food following cooking and its careful storage thereafter until consumed.

There were no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis during the year. Protection against these diseases and Whooping Cough should be availed of by all members of the community in the relevant age groups.

Again my thanks and appreciation are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Members of the Council, to all the Chief Officers, and to all members of the excellent staff of this Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. K. HEAGNEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**STAFF.**

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	J. K. Heagney, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>		F. G. Ashcroft, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	..	T. H. Meredith, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>District Public Health Inspector</i>	..	D. Knight, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30/5/59).
		M. W. Bunch, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 29/7/59).
<i>Pupil Public Health Inspector</i>	..	M. W. Bunch. W. E. Jeavons (Resigned 28/2/59)
<i>Senior Clerk</i>	..	Mrs. F. Sharpe.
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	..	Miss B. J. Tarbuck.
<i>Housing Visitor</i>	..	Miss P. Harris.

I am indebted to Mr. Green, Manager of the Darlaston branch of the Ministry of Labour for the following report :—

The improvement in the level of employment during 1959 in Darlaston was very marked and the number of unemployed workers fell substantially during the year.

During 1958, unemployment had increased, and in January, 1959, it was at a high level in comparison with previous years. 194 workers were wholly unemployed and 197 workers were on systematic short time working making a total of 391 workers registered at the Employment Exchange.

However, in common with the rest of the country, trade improved and by December, 1959, the total register of unemployed workers had fallen to 46. These consisted largely of men and women in the older age groups and those with some degree of disability which affected their employment capabilities.

The improvement was reflected in the number of people placed in employment by the Exchange service, a total of 637 workers being placed during the year.

The number of vacancies unfilled also increased and at the end of December, 1959, there were 68 such vacancies, mostly for skilled and semi-skilled workers.

The number of insured workers employed in the area was 18,201 a decrease of 367 on the figure for 1958.

The relationships between employers and workers continued to be good and there were no industrial disputes during the year.

## SECTION A.

### GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Area in Acres .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1,535
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid-1959 .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	22,270
Comparability factor for births .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	0.91
Comparability factor for deaths .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1.46
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 1st April, 1959) .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	6,330
Total rateable value (as at 1st April, 1959) .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	£256,598
Industrial rateable value (as at 1st April, 1959) .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	£80,110
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in respect of year ended 31st March, 1959 .. . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	£804

### Live Births.

			M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .. . . . .	..	..	159	128	287
Illegitimate .. . . . .	..	..	8	6	14
			—	—	—
			167	134	301
			—	—	—

Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population .. . . . .	..	13.5
Live Birth rate adjusted for comparison with other places per 1,000 of the resident population .. . . . .	..	12.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. . . . .	..	4.6%
Live Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population .. . . . .	..	16.5

**Still Births.**

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	2	—	2
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			2	—	2
			—	—	—
Still birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population			..		0.09
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			..	..	6.6
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	..
					21.0

**Total Live and Still Births.**

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	161	128	289
Illegitimate	..	..	8	6	14
			—	—	—
			169	134	303
			—	—	—

**Infant Deaths.**

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	1	3	4
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			1	3	4
			—	—	—

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age :—

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	1	2	3
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			1	2	3
			—	—	—

## Deaths of infants under 1 week of age :—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	1
Illegitimate	..	..	—
			—
			—
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	..	..	13.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			13.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil
Infant mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 related live births	..	..	22.2
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	9.9
Early Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	9.9
Neonatal mortality rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	..	..	15.8
Maternal mortality (including abortion)	..	..	nil
Maternal death rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	nil
Maternal death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	0.38

**Deaths.**

Number of deaths from all causes	..	..	..	229
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	..	..	..	10.2
Death rate adjusted for comparison with other places	..	..	..	14.9
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population	..	..	..	11.6

**CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR-  
GENERAL'S RETURN.**

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory .. ..	3	—	3
Tuberculosis Other Organs .. ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic .. .. ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .. ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. ..	—	—	—
Measles .. .. ..	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ..	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant Neoplasm Breast .. ..	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus ..	—	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. .. ..	11	8	19
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. ..	1	1	2
Diabetes .. .. ..	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	23	37
Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	16	9	25
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease .. .. ..	13	21	34
Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	3	1	4
Influenza .. .. ..	4	3	7
Pneumonia .. .. ..	5	5	10
Bronchitis .. .. ..	14	8	22
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System .. .. ..	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	3	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .. ..	—	1	1
Other defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	8	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	1	2	3
All Other Accidents .. .. ..	1	3	4
Suicide .. .. ..	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War ..	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES .. ..</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>229</b>

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1959.

	AGE						AGE					
	20-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76 up
M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Cancer of Stomach	..				1			1	1	2	1	
Cancer of Lungs and Bronchus					1				2	2	4	
Cancer of Breast	..										2	1
Cancer of Uterus	..							1	2	1		
Cancer of Other Sites	..							3	1	2	3	1
										1	2	2

**SECTION B.****INFECTIOUS DISEASE.****Diphtheria.**

There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

**Scarlet Fever.**

There were 6 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year. The disease continues to be mild, but it should not be forgotten that this disease could return to the extent of some years ago, when it was a very serious disease indeed.

**Poliomyelitis.**

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis during the year.

**Measles.**

This year the number of cases was 271 compared with 24 in 1958.

**Whooping Cough.**

This year the number of cases was 20 compared with 5 in 1958. The means of preventing this disease, with its chest complications of Bronchitis, and Bronchiectasis, should be kept constantly in mind.

**Pneumonia.**

There were 12 cases notified, compared with 3 in 1958. As will be seen in the detailed figures, most of the cases were in the higher age groups.

**Dysentery.**

There were 7 notified cases, which were confined to family groups, and of sporadic distribution.

## Tuberculosis.

16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, compared with 28 in the previous year. The marked reduction was due mainly to the fact that a Mass Radiography Survey had been carried out in the previous year. There were 3 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis all males, aged 45 years and over. There were no Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified during the year.

## DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Total.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
	Under 24.	25 to 54.	55 and over.		
1945	11	6	2	19	2
1946	9	4	2	15	1
1947	6	2	4	12	3
1948	10	6	7	23	2
1949	5	7	4	16	—
1950	—	4	4	8	—
1951	1	5	1	7	4
1952	2	1	—	3	1
1953	—	5	1	6	—
1954	1	2	5	8	3
1955	1	1	2	4	—
1956	—	1	4	5	—
1957	—	2	4	6	—
1958	—	1	2	3	—
1959	—	2	1	3	—

## NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED SINCE 1945.

Year.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1945 ..	21	34	127	52	18	30	3
1946 ..	17	21	7	18	12	28	2
1947 ..	17	55	311	51	16	30	3
1948 ..	6	53	169	29	10	36	2
1949 ..	2	39	133	25	10	23	—
1950 ..	—	14	78	44	13	18	2
1951 ..	2	15	174	74	9	30	3
1952 ..	—	33	145	41	16	28	3
1953 ..	1	28	342	89	27	36	1
1954 ..	—	23	9	138	15	25	3
1955 ..	—	13	355	30	10	20	—
1956 ..	—	4	3	15	14	21	—
1957 ..	—	1	406	124	4	18	3
1958 ..	—	12	24	5	3	28	2
1959 ..	—	6	271	20	12	16	—

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**

Disease.	No. of cases Suspected.	Confirmed.	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever .. . .	6	6	—
Whooping Cough .. . .	20	20	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis .. . .	—	—	—
Measles .. . . .	271	271	—
Diphtheria .. . . .	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. . . .	12	12	—
Erysipelas .. . . .	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. . .	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. . .	—	—	—
Dysentery .. . . .	7	7	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. . .	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. . .	—	—	—
Encephalitis .. . . .	—	—	—

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Age Groups.	Dysentery.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Pneumonia.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	1	4	30	28	—	—
3—4	1	1	2	—	3	1	27	34	—	—
5—9	1	1	4	—	3	7	64	71	—	—
10—14	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	3	4	6	—	7	13	128	143	7	5

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1959.**

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.
0— 4 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years	..	..	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—29 years	..	..	—	—	2	—	—	—
30—34 years	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—
35—39 years	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—
40—44 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—49 years	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—
50—54 years	..	..	1	2	—	—	—	—
55—59 years	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	—
60—64 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 years and over	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL AGES	8	8	—	—	3	—	—	—

**SECTION C.****GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE YEAR.****Public Health Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

**Infectious Disease Hospitals.**

Admission to these is arranged through the Public Health Department, or in emergency, on application by the General Practitioner direct to the hospital.

**Venereal Disease.**

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, or the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

**General Hospitals.**

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

**Maternity Hospitals.**

The patient's doctor arranges admission as necessary on medical grounds. If admission on any other grounds is thought desirable application should be made to the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

**Care of Mothers and Young Children.****Infant Welfare Clinics.**

These are held at Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Monday and Thursday afternoons each week, and also at the Clinic, Churchill Road, Bentley on Friday afternoons.

### **Ante-Natal Clinics.**

A weekly session is held at the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Wednesday mornings, and at the Clinic, Churchill Road, Bentley, on afternoons of the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month.

### **Health Visitors.**

The Health Visitors working in this district can usually be contacted at the Jane Mills Institute during the day, and they also attend the above clinics.

### **Domestic Help.**

The service for this district is administered by the Area Medical Officer, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury—Telephone No. Wednesbury 0961 2. The service is provided where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity, or other household emergencies.

### **District Nurses.**

There are three district nurses practising in the district. When their services are required the family doctor will normally make the arrangement.

### **Midwifery.**

There are three domiciliary mid-wives employed by the Staffordshire County Council practising in this district. Below is a list of their names and addresses :—

Mrs. E. Sullivan, 13, Slater Street, Darlaston.  
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2324.

Mrs. E. M. Harris, 38, Victory Avenue, Darlaston.  
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2603.

Mrs. V. M. Carroll, "Glenroy", Walsall Road, County Bridge, Willenhall.  
Telephone No. : Willenhall 110.

### **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

- (a) Vaccination against Smallpox is usually carried out by the General Practitioner.
  - (b) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is performed at the Infant Welfare Clinics each week mostly on children between the ages of 6 weeks and 12 months.
  - (c) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Special sessions were arranged as the vaccine became available for those in the selected age groups. The present arrangement is that there is an open session held on the first Wednesday in every month, between the hours of 5-30 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. No appointment is required, and people up to the age of 40 years are eligible.
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### **SECTION D.**

### **National Assistance Act, 1948.**

During the year no action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

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### **SECTION E.**

### **Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**

Details of the work done during the year in connection with meat and other foods is given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

There were 20 cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

The first outbreak occurred in a factory canteen. There were 58 consumers at risk, and there were 8 notified cases. The average interval from ingestion to onset of symptoms was 18 hours. The main symptoms were abdominal pains, diarrhoea, nausea, and vomiting. The illness was mild in the majority of cases, and lasted for approximately 24 hours. All the specimens were negative from both cases and food handlers, and of the food and wines submitted for laboratory examination, a heavy growth of 'B' Proteus was isolated from the carcase of the turkey. On examination it was found that the turkey was cooled at kitchen temperature, following cooking, and then transferred to a refrigerator, the efficient functioning of which was suspect.

'B' Proteus was the only organism isolated which could account for the outbreak.

The second outbreak occurred at a wedding reception held in the district. The estimated number of consumers at risk was 52. The number of notified cases was 12 though during the investigations a further 17 cases came to light. The average interval from ingestion to onset of symptoms was 12 to 24 hours, with a small number running to 36 and 48 hours. The main symptoms were diarrhoea, abdominal pains, vomiting, and fever in some cases. A small number of cases were very severe, lasting several days, the average duration being 4 to 5 days. Laboratory examinations were carried out, and *Salmonella Typhi Murium* was isolated from 27 of the faeces specimens, two of whom were food handlers. Of the food samples, only wedding cake was available for examination, and this was negative. Of the two turkeys consumed at the reception, one was allowed to cool overnight in the cooker, and the cooking finished the following day. In addition carving of the turkeys took place on the day before the reception.

Survey baiting to test for rodents was carried out at the premises, with negative results. However, it is difficult to eliminate this source of contamination of the food.

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**SECTION F.****Housing.**

I am grateful to Mr. Knight, Housing Supervisor, for the following report :—

During 1959, 53 units of accommodation were let, a decrease of 43 on the previous year. These consisted of :—

- 28 Two bedoomed flats.
- 10 Two bedoomed houses.
- 12 Three bedoomed houses.
- 3 Bungalows.

of these 30 were allocated to Slum Clearance, and 23 to general need.

During the period there were 42 re-lets.

**Housing Register.**

- 3 Applications from single persons.
- 189 Applications from persons with two in family.
- 187 Applications from persons with three in family.
- 61 Applications from persons with four or more in family.

This is a total of 440.

During the middle of 1959 all applications were checked and renewed, 134 being cancelled. The Housing List shows a decrease of 60 on the previous year, but is already beginning to increase once again, because of the needs of Slum Clearance.

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## SECTION G.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

#### **Water Supply.**

The main part of Darlaston's water supply comes from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the remainder is supplied by the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking. Regular samples were taken during the year and found to be satisfactory in quality and quantity.

I am indebted to R. H. Taylor, Esq., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for the following report :—

1. The water supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is obtained from groups of pumping stations in the neighbourhood of Cannock and Lichfield and from surface sources outside the Urban District.
3. Water from all sources is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and where treatment is practised, both before and after treatment.
4. During 1959, 94 out of 98 samples taken from two of the pumping stations from which a large proportion of the water normally supplied is obtained, were free from coliform bacteria.
5. Routine samples from the Waterman's house in Slater Street, Darlaston, were examined and twelve samples were all free from coliform bacteria. These samples were also examined chemically and the average results for 1959 were as follows :—

pH .. .. .. .. ..	7.4				
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) .. .. ..	128	parts per million.			
Chlorides (Cl) .. .. ..	61.7	" "	" "		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) .. ..	Trace	" "	" "		
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) .. ..	.024	" "	" "		
Oxidised Nitrogen (N) .. ..	2.1	" "	" "		
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C) .. ..	.29	" "	" "		
Temporary Hardness .. .. ..	123	" "	" "		
Permanent Hardness .. .. ..	54	" "	" "		
Total Hardness .. .. ..	177	" "	" "		
Iron (Fe) .. .. .. ..	.04	" "	" "		
Manganese (Mn) .. .. .. ..	.01	" "	" "		
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb) .. ..	Nil	" "	" "		
Free Cl .. .. .. ..	Nil	" "	" "		

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 12 samples from the Waterman's house being free from lead.

Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations largely as a precautionary measure. Emergency chlorination is performed in cases of emergency such as burst mains, etc., and special staff and apparatus are available for this purpose. New mains are chlorinated and not brought into use until a sample of water from them is proved satisfactory.

### **Sewage Works.**

I am grateful to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following information :

Capacity of the Darlaston Sewage Works is for a population of 21,000 producing 25 gallons of sewerage per head per day which is a total dry weather flow of 525,000 gallons per day.

No adjustments to the works have been carried out during the year. Analysis reports which have been received indicate that the works are in a marginal state, in that satisfactory and unsatisfactory comments have been received during the year.

The position is under regular review, so that any practical measures to improve the situation would be applied at an early opportunity.

### **Public Baths.**

The building is of modern construction, and design, by virtue of which it compares favourably with any in the Midlands.

Full provision is made for heating, filtering, and sterilising the 133,000 gallons of water contained in the swimming pool. The source of the water is the South Staffordshire Waterworks, and there is a 4 hours turnover of the full pool. Sterilisation is by break point chlorination, and in addition to chemical and bacteriological analysis carried out at the County and Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, there are frequent checks on the chlorination each day, by means of a comparator.

Slipper and shower baths are available.

Bacteriological examinations showed no coliform bacilli per 100 ml.

Chemical analyses were equally satisfactory.

# Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

**for the year 1959.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Report covers activities carried out by the Department whilst Mr. F. G. Ashcroft was Chief Public Health Inspector. This introduction will be brief and only indicates a small part of the varied work of the Department.

The most significant aspect of the year's work was the enormous increase in the time which had to be spent on meat inspection in order to maintain 100% inspection. The importance of this work will be appreciated from details in the report which show that some 20,000 animals were inspected, and over 5 tons of meat was condemned. Enough meat was inspected in fact to supply a town twice the size of Darlaston. Unfortunately, this meat inspection took practically the whole of the time of one inspector, with a consequent reduction in the amount of work possible in other directions. Whilst Meat Inspection is a task of immediate urgency it is regrettable that work showing less immediate results, but of equal long term importance could not be carried out. This is shown in a reduction in the number of routine visits and inspections carried out, and in the absence of any concentration on particular aspects of Public Health works which lend themselves to overall action. In the past it was possible, for instance, to concentrate on Food Hygiene in butchers, caterers, and licensed premises, with valuable, tangible results. This effort, and more, had to be diverted to meat inspection, although there are several other directions in which valuable Public Health work could be carried out. Clean food, clean air, and health education are three which come readily to mind.

Work on the Slum Clearance programme proceeded. It is hoped to increase the rate of progress in the future.

Work under the Rent Act, 1957, has fallen off considerably after the first impact of the Act. This may be due in part to the amount of form filling which has to be carried out by tenants who are not used to the type of procedure necessary. Work is also carried out by owners on undertakings under the Rent Act which do not necessitate action by the Department.

There continues a steady small number of Improvement Grants to owner/occupiers. Unfortunately, few landlords of tenanted houses avail themselves of these methods of modernising their houses and improving the general standard of living.

Finally, I feel sure that Mr. Ashcroft would wish me to thank, on his behalf, the Chairman of the Health Committee, the Members of the Council, the Clerk of the Council, and other Chief Officers and Officials for their ready co-operation and assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. H. MEREDITH,

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*

## HOUSING ACTS, 1936 AND 1957.

**(1) Action in respect of individual unfit houses.**

(a) Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made :—		<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Alma Street : 4, 27, 28, 30	.. ..	4
Bell Street : 34, 62	.. ..	2
Cramphill : 23	.. ..	1
Catherines Cross : 82, 83	.. ..	2
Castle Street : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	.. ..	6
The Green : 39	.. ..	1
Walsall Road : 291, 293, 295	.. ..	3
		19

**(2) Clearance Area Action.**

(a) The following Clearance Areas were declared by the Council :—		<i>No. of Houses.</i>
No. 43, Central	.. .. ..	7
No. 44, Heathfield Lane	.. .. ..	10
No. 45, Foster Street	.. .. ..	7
No. 46, Cramphill	.. .. ..	9
		33

**(3) Houses which became void.**

(a) Formal Action.		<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Individual unfit houses — Demolition Orders	.. .. .. ..	17
Clearance Areas	.. .. .. ..	29
Clearance Orders	.. .. .. ..	9

**(b) Informal Action.**

Individual Unfit Houses	.. .. ..	nil
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**HOUSING ACTS, 1936 AND 1957 — PART III.****CUMULATIVE TOTALS.**

	Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished.		No. of persons displaced up to 31/12/59.	No. of Dwelling Houses made fit.
	Unfit Houses.	Other Houses.		
<b>PART A.</b>				
Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land coloured "Pink"	358	—	1346	—
(ii) Land coloured "Grey"	—	—	—	—
<b>PART B.</b>				
Improvement Areas .. .	—	—	—	—

**PART C**—occurring in 1959.

Unfit houses not included in Clearance Areas or Improvement Areas :—

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) Houses demolished—Statutory action .. ..  | 11 |
| (2) Houses demolished—Informal action .. ..   | —  |
| (3) Houses demolished on certificate by Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation .. ..   | —  |
| (4) Houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 16 not to use the house for human habitation .. .. .. .. | —  |
| (5) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. ..  | —  |
| (6) Closing Orders (Local Gov. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953)   | —  |

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

<b>1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.</b>	
(1) (a) Houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts) .. . . .	360
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	360
(2) Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit .. . . .	52
(3) Houses (exclusive of those in (2) above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation .. .	122
<b>2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.</b>	
Defective houses, rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority .. . . . .	81
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</b>	
(1) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957. No action was taken under these Sections.	
(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(a) Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. . . .	58
(b) Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(i) By owners .. . . . .	39
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

## HOUSE BUILDING.

The following houses were erected by the Council :—

Street.		One Bedroom	Two Bedrooms	Three Bedrooms	Bungalows
Poplar Avenue .. ..	..	--	34	12	—
Hewitt Street .. ..	..	—	—	—	3
Cornwall Place .. ..	..	—	4	—	—
Total each type .. ..	..	—	38	12	3

Total of all types : 53.

In addition the following houses were built by private enterprise :—

Private dwelling houses (including 3 bungalows)	..	..	6
Shop, with living accommodation	..	..	1
(Any other type) .. .. ..	..	..	nil
Total ..	..	..	7

## HOUSING VISITOR.

(For Council-owned property).

During the year the survey was, for all practical purposes, completed, and more time was devoted to raising the standards of houses found to require attention. Apart from a small hard core of incorrigibles, there was a definite improvement in this type of house. The survey showed that the general condition of Council houses is satisfactory, with many houses of an exceptionally high standard. Regular visits are made to the hard core mentioned above, and every effort is made to instil into these tenants a sense of responsibility to the community, their families and themselves.

Total number of visits made to Council houses .. .. 5,048

Number of visits to sub-standard Council houses .. .. 231

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

### **Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts, 1958-1959.**

Discretionary Grants totalling £3,549 were approved by the Council in respect of the following 22 houses :—

King Edward Street : 45	..	..	..	..	1
Queen Street : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	..	..	..	..	8
Rubery Street : 30	..	..	..	..	1
Walsall Road : 332	..	..	..	..	1
Waverley Road : 19, 20	..	..	..	..	2
Westbourne Road : 3	..	..	..	..	1
Willenhall Road : 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69	..	..	..	..	8

Standard Grants totalling £395 were also approved by the Council in respect of the following 3 houses :—

Peach Avenue : 4	..	..	..	..	1
Sandwell Avenue : 25	..	..	..	..	1
Station Street : 89	..	..	..	..	1

Work was completed at the following 7 houses :—

Dorsett Road : 85	..	..	..	..	1
Fern Villas, Bull Street : 2	..	..	..	..	1
King Edward Street : 21, 45	..	..	..	..	2
Richards Street : 38	..	..	..	..	1
Walsall Road : 332	..	..	..	..	1
Westbourne Road : 3	..	..	..	..	1

## RENT ACT, 1957.

### **Part 1.**

#### **Applications for Certificate of Disrepair.**

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	..	..	3
(2) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	..	..	0
(3) Number of decisions to issue Certificates :—			
(i) in respect of some, but not all defects	..	..	0
(ii) in respect of all defects	..	..	3

(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first Schedule .. .. ..	2
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first Schedule	0
(6) Number of Certificates issued .. .. ..	2

## Part II.

### Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for Cancellation of Certificates .. .. ..	0
(8) Objections by tenants to Cancellation of Certificates	0
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections .. .. ..	0
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority .. ..	0

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

#### Abatement of Nuisances.

Items in respect of which Informal Notices were served	1,028
Items in respect of which Abatement Notices were served	150
Items which were complied with.. .. ..	854

#### Mortuary.

During the year 20 bodies were received into the Mortuary. Post-mortem examination was performed in 19 cases.

#### Moveable Dwellings.

There is no ground within the Urban District suitable for parking caravans, and, as in the past, there has been prompt joint action by this Department and the Police to prevent the settling of moveable dwellings on the outskirts of the district.

40 caravans moved on.

Land near the centre of the town is used as winter quarters for members of the Showmen's Guild. There is close co-operation between the owners of the site, the members of the Guild, and the Health Department, and the small number of complaints received are promptly dealt with.

### **Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

Visits to infectious disease cases (including Food Poisoning)		152
Premises disinfected after infectious disease .. ..		3
Terminal disinfection following deaths from Tuberculosis ..		0
Premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions (e.g., fleas and bugs) .. .. .. ..		9
Premises disinfested, (e.g., ants, cockroaches, etc.) .. ..		100
Destruction of Bedding .. .. .. ..		51

### **Refuse Collection.**

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information :—

1959.	<i>Refuse.</i>	<i>Waste Paper Salvage.</i>		
		Tons.	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.
January .. .. ..	740	16 10 1	128 11 11	
February .. .. ..	662	14 14 0	115 16 8	
March .. .. ..	640	15 17 0	125 17 0	
April .. .. ..	715	14 14 2	124 4 10	
May .. .. ..	635	14 18 3	112 0 7	
June .. .. ..	694	20 9 0	153 7 6	
July .. .. ..	690	14 5 1	120 5 0	
August .. .. ..	600	6 1 0	45 7 6	
September .. .. ..	660	14 2 0	105 15 0	
October .. .. ..	660	19 16 3	162 5 7	
November .. .. ..	690	24 7 2	196 18 8	
December .. .. ..	712	17 16 3	133 15 7	
Totals .. .. ..	8,098	193 12 3	1,524 5 10	

**MEAT AND FOODS.**

This year saw the full operation of a contract slaughterhouse which slaughters on a large scale for butchers over a wide area outside the district. 100% meat inspection has been maintained, necessitating some Sunday and evening work. The extent of this work is such that the equivalent of one Inspector's time is spent fully on Meat Inspection.

The slaughterhouses both operate in a hygienic and humane manner, with close co-operation between owners, slaughtermen and Meat Inspector. The provisions of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations were fully discussed and explained to the appropriate persons, and have been enforced as necessary.

Number of Slaughterhouses licensed .. . . .	2
Number of slaughtermen licensed .. . . .	10

**ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

Carcasses and Offal inspected and found unfit in whole or in part.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Goats.
Number killed ..	1,307	188	867	10,222	6,880	—	1
Number inspected ..	1,307	188	867	10,222	6,880	—	1
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned ..	..	..	8	3	8	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	490	44	4	714	647	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	37.4%	23.4%	1.3%	7%	9.2%	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis.</b>							
Whole carcasses condemned ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	31	2	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with Tuberculosis ..	2.3%	1%	0.1%	—	3.7%	—	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected ..	..	..	1.3%	—	—	—	—

The weight of meat found unfit in connection with the above table was 5 tons 0 cwt., 2 qrs. 11 lbs. 6 ozs.

## **UNFIT FOOD.**

Considerable quantities of tinned goods, fish, bacon, etc., are inspected each year, and the system of voluntary surrender against certificates of unfitness is operated. By this system, no trader has any excuse for having unfit food in his possession.

During the year 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 23 lbs.  $7\frac{3}{4}$  ozs. of a wide range of foods (other than meat inspected at the slaughterhouses) was certified as unfit, voluntary surrender accepted and disposal arranged.

## **DISPOSAL OF UNFIT FOOD.**

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the base of the working face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items suitable for burning are destroyed in the Council's incinerator.

The bulk of the unfit meat from the slaughterhouse is stained with a special green dye before removal to a licensed processing factory in an adjoining Authority. Every precaution is taken to regulate the handling of unfit food to ensure that it is not diverted from the proper channels. There exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department, which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.**

<i>(i) Number of Food Premises in the Area.</i>	<i>No. of Premises.</i>	<i>No. of Visits.</i>
Civic Restaurant .. .. ..	1	6
Restaurants .. .. ..	9	22
Bakehouses .. .. ..	2	11
Fried Fish Shops .. .. ..	16	18
Butchers .. .. ..	30	74
Bacon Factories .. .. ..	1	49
Grocers .. .. ..	123	72
Greengrocers .. .. ..	22	35
Wet Fish Shops .. .. ..	7	9
Slaughterhouses .. .. ..	2	446
Licensed Premises .. .. ..	76	57

**(ii) Number of Food premises registered under Section 16 of the  
and Drugs Act, 1955.**

			No. of Premises.	No. of Visits.
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	81	27
Manufacturers of Preserved Foods	..		9	62

There is only one retailer of loose ice cream in the district.

**(iii) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

The following informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 :—

				Served.
Greengrocers	..	..	..	1
Grocers	..	..	..	3
Ice-Cream Retailers	..	..	..	1
Items contained on notices :—				
Unsanitary premises	..	..	..	2
Equipment—dirty or unsuitable	..	..		1
Unsatisfactory lighting and ventilation to W.C.	..			1
Absence of water supply	..	..	..	2
Absence of wash hand basin	..	..	..	5
Unsatisfactory, or no hot water	..	..		1
Absence of soap, towel, and nail brush	..	..		1
Absence of first aid outfit	..	..	..	1
Absence of clothes locker	..	..	..	1
Absence of washing up sink	..	..	..	1
Dirty Food Room	..	..	..	2
Food Room in need of repair	..	..	..	6
Vermin proofing	..	..	..	1
Accumulation of refuse	..	..	..	3
Stalls (including vans)				
Name and address not shown	..	..	..	1
Inadequate lighting	..	..	..	2
Inadequate or unsuitable receptacles	..	..	..	2
Absence of soap, towel, and nailbrush	..	..	..	1

## MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is designated approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no plants for the heat treatment of milk, and no producers of milk in the district.

### **Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulation 1949/1953.**

Supplementary Licences—

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	7
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	7
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	7

Dealer's Licences—

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	57
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	5
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	—

## SAMPLING.

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and details of samples of milk taken to ascertain cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

### **List of Samples taken during the year 1959 :**

#### **Milk.**

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	4
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	5
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	15
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	..	15
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	..	..	nil

#### **General Foods.**

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	38
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	33
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	..	5

**Classification of General Foods.**

Pancake and Batter Mixture ; Ready Dinner ; New Zealand Cheese ; Chopped Pork ; Pre-Fluffed Rice ; Dried Mint ; Pastry Mix ; Cheese Cake Mixture ; Pork Sausage containing preservative; Pork Sausage ; Corned Beef (2 samples) ; Beef Steak with Gravy ; Skinless Pork Sausages ; Pork Roll ; Coconut Spread ; Garden Peas ; Pork in Natural Juices ; Blackcurrant Jam ; Cream Doughnuts ; Faggotts ; Butter ; Peeled Plum Tomatoes ; Cornish Pasties (2 samples) ; Malt Vinegar ; Salmon ; Honey ; Plum Jam ; Granulated Gravy Improver ; Baking Powder ; Milk Chocolate Gold Coins ; Essence of Coffee and Chicory ; Orchard Fruits ; Raspberry Nougat ; Brawn ; Tea ; Peeled Tomatoes.

**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1959.**

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test.		Turbidity Test.		Methylene Blue Test.		Biological.	
		Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.
Tuberculin Tested ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ..	22	—	—	22	—	—	—	22	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	16	—	—	16	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	58	—	—	38	—	—	—	17	—	41	—

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 — (PART 1).**

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities . . .		1	1	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . . .	2	79	127	1	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS . . . . .	—	80	127	1	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted
		Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (5)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	..	..	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	..	..	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	..	..	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	..	..	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	..	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	..	..	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	..	..	10	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	..	..	11	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)			12	—	—
TOTALS	..	..	—	1	1

### **PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Number of Licences issued to store Petrol or Petroleum Spirit	44
Number of gallons of Petrol or Petroleum Spirit Stored	73,337 gallons.
Number of Licences issued to store Carbide of Calcium ..	4
Amount of Carbide of Calcium stored ..	104 tons 8 cwts.
Income from Licences .. .. ..	£39 15s. 0d.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

#### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business premises (factories, shops, etc.) .. ..	79
Private Dwelling Houses .. .. ..	126
Estimated Kill (rats) .. .. ..	915
Estimated Kill (mice) .. .. ..	1,099

### **CINEMAS.**

Annual inspection for licensing purposes was carried out at the local cinema. Further inspections were carried out in conjunction with the County Fire Prevention Officer.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.**

One Licence was issued, for the sale of Gold Fish only.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Concentration of Smoke.	Deposited matter per month.					
	Smoke Filter.		Estimation of Sulphur Lead Peroxide Mg. SO <sub>3</sub> /day per 100 sq. cms. PbO <sub>2</sub>		Total Solids	
Mg. per 100 cubic metres.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Ins. Rain.	Total Water Insoluble Matter Tons sq. mile	Total Water Soluble Matter Tons sq. mile
Town Hall.						Sewage Works.
JANUARY ..	32	96	8	5.01	2.64	12.59
FEBRUARY ..	27	81	9	3.66	0.20	8.21
MARCH ..	20	41	9	2.92	2.13	21.86
APRIL ..	18	55	4	1.12	2.99	10.89
MAY ..	17	38	2	1.31	0.95	8.38
JUNE ..	..	7	19	1.27	1.02	14.37
JULY ..	..	5	17	2	1.39	2.13
AUGUST ..	..	8	29	4	1.25	2.52
SEPTEMBER ..	15	54	4	1.23	0.18	6.45
OCTOBER ..	17	45	5	2.23	2.64	12.94
NOVEMBER ..	35	132	10	2.83	3.43	17.83
DECEMBER ..	20	55	9	3.20	4.23	16.73







C. H. Bowcotts  
and Sons  
Wednesbury and  
Darlaston